

Every Day Is Thanksgiving Day

by Jim Stauffer

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (**Philippians 4:6**)

As the Russian comedian says, "What a great country"! We in America have lived for many years now in what most agree is a great country. We have much freedom. Generally our freedom spans all aspects of life as long as we do not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others.

As a result of this great freedom we thank God often for the blessings this nation has afforded us. We even have a holiday devoted to that expression. That day comes next Thursday as it does each year on the 4th Thursday in November.

Because this nation was founded on many of the principles of the Christian religion, many have come to equate our nation with the church Jesus died to purchase with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**).

That is a sad mistake. While some of the ideas expressed by the founding fathers may have originated in Scripture, this nation is not in anyway a part of the plan God has revealed for His saints in His word.

As Paul then instructs us to remember to be thankful as we make our requests known to God, he is referring to *the spiritual blessings* found in Christ Jesus (**Eph. 1:3**). That does not in anyway imply we should not be grateful for the blessings we have as a nation of people on this earth as well as those conferred on a "...*holy nation, a people for His own possession...*" (**1 Pet. 2:9**). What it means is there are blessings such as we enjoy as Americans that fall under the umbrella of the rain falling on the just and the unjust that are distinctly different than those afforded the person who has obeyed Christ unto salvation (**Matt. 5:45; Heb. 5:9**).

We, therefore make a mistake when we equate our nation with God's people. America is not "...*A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION,*" (**1 Pet. 2:9**).

Now let us recognize the reality and opportunity we enjoy in such a nation as this and spread the news about the greater blessings to which the apostle refers. We have an open door to communicate the news of salvation to the world using nearly any and all formats. We can speak freely to our neighbor. We can communicate by the written word such as this or any other venue. We can speak publicly to any and all who will listen. After all, we are as the parable teaches sowing the seed all over the field, the world, in hopes of finding the good soil in which it can thrive.

Now that is worthy of thanksgiving and it offers thanks for both the opportunity provided by the nation in which we live while at the same time thanking God for His indescribable gift (**2 Cor. 9:10-15**).

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